

Members

Sen. Sue Landske, Chairperson  
Sen. Joseph Zakas  
Sen. Ron Alting  
Sen. Rose Antich  
Sen. William Alexa  
Sen. Earline Rogers  
Rep. Charlie Brown, Vice-Chairperson  
Rep. Linda Lawson  
Rep. Dan Stevenson  
Rep. Ralph Ayres  
Rep. Daniel Dumezich  
Rep. Dean Mock  
William Pemberton  
Duane W. Dedelow



# NORTHWEST INDIANA TRANSPORTATION STUDY COMMISSION

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Authority: P.L. 140-2001

## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date:	September 19, 2002
Meeting Time:	10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place:	State House, 200 W. Washington St., 130
Meeting City:	Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number:	1

**Members Present:** Sen. Sue Landske, Chairperson; Sen. Joseph Zakas; Sen. Earline Rogers; Rep. Charlie Brown, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Dean Mock.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Ron Alting; Sen. Rose Antich; Sen. William Alexa; Rep. Linda Lawson; Rep. Dan Stevenson; Rep. Ralph Ayres; Rep. Daniel Dumezich; William Pemberton; Duane W. Dedelow.

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Senator Sue Landske called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

Sen. Landske discussed a letter from the Board of Commissioners of LaPorte County concerning a toll exchange in LaPorte County. A copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit "A". Sen. Landske announced that the issue of the toll road exchanges would be on the agenda for the next Commission meeting. Sen. Zakas discussed the actual location of the exchanges. The Commission discussed issues related to the toll road exchanges. Rep. Brown asked for clear information about the exchanges and the related issues.

Sen. Landske introduced Bryan Nicol, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Transportation (INDOT) and a member of the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (C-TASC). Commissioner Nicol outlined the nature and work of C-TASC, and describe the composition of its membership. Commissioner Nicol then discussed the internal INDOT entity created as a counterpart to C-TASC.

Commissioner Nicol reviewed the steps taken by INDOT related to security. He reported that INDOT identified critical infrastructure, analyzed security issues related to the infrastructure, developed terrorism and disaster redundant transportation plans, and promoted heightened awareness for all INDOT employees while engaged in their duties. Commissioner Nicol talked about new INDOT internal security measures and about INDOT's place in emergency response. Lastly, Commissioner Nicol discussed the new geographic information system (GIS) being implemented by INDOT, and the uses for the GIS. The Commission discussed INDOT security, the use of dynamic message boards and cameras, and the Amber Alert for Indiana.

Rep. Brown and Sen. Zakas discussed Hoosier Helpers with Commissioner Nicol. Rep. Brown asked Commissioner Nicol if INDOT supported legislation requiring the use of hands-free cellular phones while driving, and Commissioner Nicol stated that he would discuss the issue with the administration to obtain an answer. Rep. Brown, Sen. Zakas and Sen. Rogers led a Commission discussion on highway signs restricting vehicles to the right lane. The Commission discussed highway safety and INDOT long range plans for six lane highways.

Sen. Landske recognized Dan Gardner and Ken Dallmeyer from the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) to provide an update on NIRPC's work. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Dallmeyer provided a handout to the Commission and discussed the handout. A copy of the handout is attached as Exhibit "B". The Commission discussed the handout, public transportation in Northwest Indiana, local transportation revenue, and problems with railroad crossing repair. Rep. Mock initiated a discussion on the use of casino revenue for transportation projects.

Sen. Landske discussed future meetings and the proposed agenda items. She placed the following items on the agenda for the next Commission meeting:

- 1) A report from the Michiana Area Council of Governments.
- 2) A report from the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District.
- 3) A discussion and fact finding concerning the issues related to the toll road exchanges.
- 4) A presentation on transportation security by James Roche, the Transportation Security Agency Federal Security Director for Northern Indiana.
- 5) Review of the request for reauthorization of the Northwest Indiana Transportation Study Commission and consideration of a preliminary draft to reauthorize the Commission.

The Commission requested the following information during the course of the meeting:

- 1) Information on Hoosier Helpers and on the toll exchanges from INDOT.
- 2) Information from the Lake County Regional Transportation Authority on a proposed increase in the Lake County food and beverage tax.
- 3) Information on the short term transportation plan from NIRPC.

Sen. Landske set the next meeting of the Commission for October 30 at 9:30 a.m. in northwest Indiana at a location to be determined.

Sen. Landske adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.